

## GARDNERS MAY HOLD SECRET

NIGHBORS SAY MRS. HAMILTON KNOWS MYSTERIOUS SLASHER.

Police Think the Assassin May Have Been Seeking the Mother of Gardner, Who Recently Won a Suit Against the Relatives of Her Deceased Second Husband.

The man who tried to get into William R. Gardner's home in Bath Beach on Thursday night and who slashed three of the neighbors who went to Mrs. Gardner's assistance, has not yet been caught and the police, after a hard day's work, have no clue as to his identity.

One of these police theories is that the man was looking for his own wife, who left him to live with a man named Gardner, but not the William R. Gardner of Bath Beach and Bay Ninth street.

The other notion, and the one which the police think is the more reasonable, is that the slasher was looking for William R. Gardner's mother, Mrs. Ann Hamilton, of 218 East Thirty-first street, Manhattan, who recently won a \$100,000 suit against the relatives of her second husband.

Capt. Leavoy of the Bath Beach police station, his two wardens and Detective Sergeant Mulvey and Price of the Brooklyn Headquarters worked on the case all day yesterday. It was so much of a fizzle that Inspector McLaughlin went to Bath Beach himself to investigate. But none of the police officials could get at anything really tangible. Nobody at the Gardner household gave them any assistance. They were convinced that young Mrs. Gardner was telling the truth when she said that she had no idea of the intruder's identity.

On the other hand, the detectives thought that Mrs. Hamilton might have thrown some light on the queer case if she had been so inclined. The neighbors agreed with them.

Frederick Foster, a son-in-law of John McMahon, the neighbor who was dangerously wounded while trying to put the mysterious stranger off the Gardner premises, said:

"We can't help thinking that, inasmuch as three of the neighbors were seriously hurt while trying to protect the Gardners, the family ought to help the police all they can in running down the assassin. Instead of doing that, they persist in saying that they don't know a thing about it. Mrs. Hamilton's mother, who lives at 218 East Thirty-first street, told me that she had never been engaged in any lawsuit and knew of nobody who had any grudge against her."

The man who has made all the trouble and who has given to Bath Beach a mystery, was in the neighborhood of the Gardner household for four weeks ago. On that occasion he went first to the house of a neighbor, Mrs. Golding. He told her that he wanted to find Mrs. Ann Hamilton.

Mrs. Golding said that she knew no such person, but told him that there was a Mrs. Nora Gardner living in the corner house. Then the caller described the woman as being about 40 years old, tall, and with gray hair. The description fit Mrs. Gardner's mother, Mrs. Ann Hamilton, and Mrs. Golding told him so. Then the stranger left to go to the Gardner home.

There was something about the man that made Mrs. Golding suspicious. He did not help matters any by picking up a stone and throwing it at the Gardner's front door. When Mrs. Golding saw that the man was going to the back door of Gardner's house and warned Mrs. Gardner not to answer the bell.

After ringing and knocking for ten minutes the man went away. Mrs. Gardner had seen him through the blinds on that first visit and recognized him when he appeared again on Thursday night. He saw her on the piazza on his first visit, but paid no attention to her. He kept insisting on seeing Mrs. Ann Hamilton. That alone satisfied the police that he was not seeking Mrs. Gardner, but the other woman, whom he had described accurately a month before and with whose first name he was familiar.

The week spot in this theory is that the fellow evidently did not tell Mr. Gardner's mother that he had married again and that he had a wife named Hamilton. This second huge hint was given by Hamilton, a Scotchman and well-to-do contractor and builder. He was found dead in his bathtub about three years ago at his home, 218 East Thirty-first street. He left a will and the relatives immediately began to fight for his fortune of something over \$100,000. The widow claimed everything, on the ground that most of the property belonged to her before she married Hamilton.

The first decision was in favor of the heirs in Scotland, but Mrs. Hamilton carried the case to the Court of Appeals that she was a stranger made his first visit to Bath Beach in search of Mrs. Ann Hamilton.

Mrs. Hamilton went to her son's house at Bath Beach yesterday after an excitement of the night before had died out a little.

The neighbors connected the front porch standing in front with the lawsuit and the stranger's knowledge of the other woman's personal appearance, age and first name. Then they jumped to the conclusion that the visitor was somebody who wanted to satisfy a personal grudge, for not getting a part of Hamilton's fortune.

The police, however, are not so sure. They are sure that the man was not a stranger, but they are not sure who he was. They are sure that the man was not a stranger, but they are not sure who he was. They are sure that the man was not a stranger, but they are not sure who he was.

After a long interview with the members of the family Detective Mulvey said: "I believe that Mrs. Gardner is telling the truth when she says that she does not know the man. I think that Mrs. Hamilton is a very shrewd woman."

Mrs. Gardner is about 30 years old. She was married to William R. Gardner, and his second wife, about seven months ago. Before that she worked with him in a lithographing company in the Bowery, between Houston and Mulberry streets, Manhattan.

Carl Borkmiller, John McMahon and Frank McMahon, who were the defendants in the case, are all doing well. The nature of the case in John McMahon's abdomen and the cut on Frank McMahon's face indicate that the assailant used a razor. The police have been able to trace the man as far as the Union station at Thirty-sixth street, South Brooklyn, where he left the surface car, which he had boarded in front of the Gardner house after committing the assault.

New York University Loses a Medical Laboratory.

The Appellate Division yesterday handed down a majority opinion sustaining the decision of Justice Truax in directing the New York University to reconvey to the Medical College Laboratory of the city of New York, the premises which were deeded over to the university in 1897 in accordance with a plan for combining the laboratory and the university. The college faculty, in bringing suit to recover the property, complained that the university had not lived up to an agreement whereby a committee of medical men attached to the college was to remain in full charge of the laboratory. Justice Truax, in his decision, affirmed the decision of Justice Van Brunt and McLaughlin dissenting.

## "BOSS" BUTLER FOUND GUILTY.

Democratic Leader of St. Louis Gets Three-Year Sentence for Bribery.

COLUMBIA, Mo., Nov. 14.—Edward Butler, the Democratic boss of St. Louis, on trial here for the attempted bribery of a member of the Board of Health in the garbage contract case, has been convicted, and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

The case went to trial Monday. The defense made no attempt to impeach the testimony of the State, other than to show lack of motive for the crime. Every effort was made to secure acquittal on the ground of the age of the defendant and the fact that nothing had been charged against him previously.

The case went to the jury at 6:45 o'clock last night and the verdict was returned at 8:17 o'clock this morning. A verdict of guilty was reached by the jury on the first ballot. The only question was as to the length of the sentence, whether a maximum of five years or a lesser term be imposed. The jury finally compromised on three years.

The jury believed, with Attorney Folk, that a violation of the laws is neither a Democrat nor a Republican, but simply a criminal, is shown by the verdict rendered, as the jury was composed entirely of Democrats, several county committee-men being on the panel.

Motion for a new trial was promptly overruled by Judge Hockaday. Then the defense moved for an appeal to the Supreme Court and Col. Butler gave bond in \$100,000, William T. Stockton, William T. Anderson, James T. Stockton and James H. Galt, all of this city, going on his bond.

The case of bribery in the lighting contract against Col. Butler, which was set for hearing at Fulton, next Monday, Butler having obtained a change of venue from the police officials, could get at anything really tangible. Nobody at the Gardner household gave them any assistance. They were convinced that young Mrs. Gardner was telling the truth when she said that she had no idea of the intruder's identity.

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## THEIR BODIES IN THE HUDSON.

THE FATE OF THE MISSING FOLGHEPSE COUPLE.

The Horse and Wagon in Which James Waters and Kitty McLaughlin Drove Away on Oct. 26, Found in the River Near Hyde Park—Bodies Not Found.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Nov. 14.—The relatives and friends of James Waters and his sweetheart, Miss Kitty McLaughlin, have come to the sad conclusion that their bodies are resting on the bottom of the Hudson River near Hyde Park. The party organized this morning to graze for the bodies of the young couple brought to the surface, shortly after 1 o'clock to-day, the horse and wagon they took when they drove away on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 26. The horse was covered with mud. The harness was not broken, except the girths, which had parted with the swelling of the animal's body. Dr. C. P. Stanbury, the owner of the rig, was present when the wagon was brought to the surface.

It was decided by Chief of Police McCabe, when it was discovered, that Miss McLaughlin had left a large sum of money in her dress suit case at her boarding house, that something had happened to her, or she would have sent to Mrs. Kessler, her landlady, and asked her to forward it. Up to that time it was thought that the couple had planned to elope and had left the valuable trotter and runabout hired from Dr. Stanbury with some person who had been tempted to dispose of it.

Yesterday Chief McCabe went to New York and ascertained that E. G. Gilmore, a street car conductor, who said that he had seen Waters and Miss McLaughlin in New York on election day, was mistaken. On the same day Dr. Stanbury identified as his property the blanket found in the river near shore, about a mile north of Hyde Park, by townsmen James Terpenning several days after the disappearance of the young couple. This made it plain that the bodies of the missing couple were in the river.

At 10 o'clock this morning Chief of Police McCabe, with Sgt. Steady, Roundsman, Leroy and "Dick" Woody, a professional investigator of this character, started for Hyde Park, with lines and grappling began the search for the bodies. The morning passed without result. There was a strong wind blowing and the work was very exhausting.

After dinner the men started in with renewed determination and the very first catch brought the bodies of the missing couple. The bodies were found in a wagon, which was thrown over several times and came up covered with red paint. Finally it struck and held, and with a strong pull the wagon was hauled out of the water. The bodies were found from a point fifty feet in the river and seventy-five feet north of the freight house on the Hyde Park dock. The ship was still in the river.

The grappling party was disappointed that the bodies did not come up with the wagon. It was decided that they must be enticed on a sinking log. A dynamite and Supt. Wells of Fred W. Vanderhulst's place, offered to supply it. Half a ton of dynamite was used, but it was without apparent result, but it is expected that the bodies will come up during the night. The searchers returned to Poughkeepsie at dark.

To-morrow the shores near Hyde Park and the flats near Esopus island will be searched with the hope that the bodies will be found.

Waters was about 25 years of age. He was a member of several clubs and an officer of the Pioneer Hose Company. The crack volunteer hose company of the city. Miss McLaughlin was 21, of petite figure and vivacious in manner. She was dressed stylishly when she was last seen. She wore a black skirt, white waist, a light colored automobile coat and a picture hat. The bodies were found in a wagon, which was thrown over several times and came up covered with red paint. Finally it struck and held, and with a strong pull the wagon was hauled out of the water. The bodies were found from a point fifty feet in the river and seventy-five feet north of the freight house on the Hyde Park dock. The ship was still in the river.

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## THEODORE B. STARR

Diamond Merchant, Jeweler and Silversmith.

MADISON SQUARE WEST  
Between 25th and 26th Streets.  
Established 1832.  
15 years on John St. as Starr & Marcus.  
25 years as above.

SPECIAL NOTICE.  
No connection with any other house in this line of business.

WARDMAN DOWNS DISMISSED.  
Found Guilty of Every Charge, Including Aiding a Poolroom.

Ex-Captain Timothy J. Croeden's former wardman, Patrolman John H. Dowdes, was dismissed from the force yesterday by order of the Commissioner, who announced that he had found Dowdes guilty on every one of the five charges brought against him.

These charges were: Conduct unbecoming an officer; conduct injurious to the public peace and welfare; neglect and disobedience of orders and of the rules and regulations of the department; making false reports to his superior officers; and aiding and abetting in the keeping of a poolroom.

Dowdes was arrested on Sept. 2, immediately after a raid made by city detectives on an alleged poolroom in East Eighth street. Dowdes was the subject of a warrant against Dowdes obtained on the strength of evidence gathered by a private detective in the employ of the Citizens' Union.

On Sept. 8 charges were brought against Capt. Croeden and Dowdes before Commissioner Partridge and two days later the wardman was indicted on a charge of aiding and abetting. The trial of the case is still pending.

During the trial of Dowdes at headquarters evidence was produced showing that he had assisted the private detective of the Citizens' Union and another man to become members of the Citizens' Union Association, under which name the alleged poolroom was conducted.

MRS. DOW HEADS WOMEN'S CLUBS.

Wins Presidency of State Federation From Mrs. Lynch.

The eight annual convention of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs, which had been in session in Brooklyn since Tuesday was brought to a close yesterday. The officers elected for the two ensuing years are: President, Mrs. Charles M. Dow, of Jamestown; first vice-president, Mrs. Philip Carpenter of Manhattan; second vice-president, Mrs. Doran Lyon, Manhattan; recording secretary, Mrs. Harry Hastings, Manhattan; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Miriam Mason Greely, Manhattan; treasurer, Mrs. George P. Baird, Queens; general secretary, Mrs. William Eastwood, Rochester; directors, Mrs. Norman E. Mack, Buffalo; Mrs. Thomas Emory, Syracuse; Mrs. Charles E. Nearing, Manhattan; Mrs. S. M. Lindsay, Utica.

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